

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact: Pat Shields, Area Management Biologist;	Aaron Dupuis, Asst. Area Management Biologist
43961 Kalifornsky Beach Rd, Suite B	Soldotna, AK 99669
Phone: (907) 262-9368	Fax: (907) 262-4709
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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 35
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-33-12

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 35 opens set gillnetting in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands Sections of the Upper Subdistrict on Thursday, August 9, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m.

The escapement rate of sockeye salmon into the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers is proceeding at a rate greater than that needed to assure optimum escapement levels. In order to increase the efficiency of the set gillnet fishery, this regularly scheduled 12-hour fishing period is being modified from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. This change in time is intended to provide for an orderly fishery and to maximize the harvest potential of Kenai and Kasilof River sockeye salmon.

Even though all data on late-run king salmon indicate low abundance of fish this year, severe restrictions to all fisheries have reduced the harvest of late-run king salmon to the minimal extent that the DIDSON based king salmon escapement for the 2012 Kenai River late-run of king salmon will be larger than the last two years and will likely provide adequate spawning escapement. Based on this information, commercial fishing with set gillnets in the Upper Subdistrict will be allowed.

All other areas and gear types will fish from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 9, 2012, except for set gillnetting in the General Subdistrict of the Northern District, which will be closed on Thursday, August 9, 2012 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. (see UCI Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 34).